

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6027

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, SG

SUBJ: PRESIDENT SENGHOR BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

1. UNDER AUSPICES OF LEOPOLD SENGHOR FOUNDATION, EXTENSIVE CULTURAL AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES ARE BEING PLANNED TO COMMEMORATE PRESIDENT'S SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY, OCTOBER 9. ACTIVITIES WILL BE ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SCALE AND WILL BRING TOGETHER RENOWNED STATESMEN AND SCHOLARS FOR SYMPOSIUM DEVOTED TO THEME "CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT." GOS INVITING PERSONALITIES WITH INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION SUCH AS WRITERS, HISTORIANS, SCIENTISTS, ANTHROPOLOGISTS, ETC. EACH WILL PRESENT PAPER AT SYMPOSIUM FOR DEBATE.

2. MAIN CULTURAL EVENTS TO CELEBRATE PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY ARE SCHEDULED FROM OCTOBER 1 TO 9 AND INCLUDE FOLLOWING:

A) PRESENTATION OF SERIES OF PLAYS BY AFRICAN PLAYWRIGHTS AT NATIONAL THEATRE.

B) SERIES OF CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS SUCH AS DANCE AND FOLK GROUPS FROM NEIGHBORING AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

C) SENEGALESE REGIONAL POPULAR MANIFESTATIONS TO BE CENTERED AROUND TRADITIONAL AND ANCIENT CUSTOMS. THESE TO
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BEGIN ON/OR ABOUT SEPTEMBER 25.

D) MAJOR EXHIBITION OF CONTEMPORARY SENEGALESE ART.

E) INTERNATIONAL
SYMPOSIUM ON /CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT"
TO BE HELD AT DAKAR TRADE CENTER.

3. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS STATE AND USIA COORDINATE OFFICIAL
U.S. CONTRIBUTION THIS IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL AND
NATIONAL EVENT AND CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING THE FOLLOWING
SUGGESTIONS:

A) A WARM PERSONAL BIRTHDAY GREETING BE SENT BY PRESIDENT
FORD ALONG WITH A BIRTHDAY GIFT WHICH MIGHT BE TIED TO
THE AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL.

B) IMPORTANT USG OFFICIALS WHO HAVE HAD RECENT MEETINGS
WITH PRESIDENT SENGHOR SHOULD BE ASKED TO SEND LETTER OR
TELEGRAM OF CONGRATULATIONS. THESE ARE: SECRETARY KISSINGER;
ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELE; US AMBASSADOR TO UN SCRANTON;
AND AID ADMINISTRATOR PARKER.

C) FORMER AMERICAN AMBASSADORS TO SENEGAL SHOULD ALSO
BE ASKED TO SEND WARM GREETINGS. THEY ARE: G. EDWARD
CLARK; L. DEAN BROWN; MERCER COOK; PHILIP KAISER; AND
HENRY S. VILLARD.

4. USIS HAS REQUESTED VOA PREPARE SPECIAL PROGRAM IN HONOR
PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S BIRTHDAY. AGENCY'S TV SERVICE WILL
ALSO BE ASKED DEVELOP SPECIAL PROGRAM.

5. POST FEELS THAT AMERICAN OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL
RECOGNITION TO FAMOUS SENEGALESE SEPTAUGENARIAN AND HIS
CONTRIBUTIONS TO WORLD STATESMANSHIP, THE ARTS AND LETTERS,
WILL ENHANCE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT
OF SENEGAL.
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